# BEST AVAILABLE COPY PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number:

11-176727

(43) Date of publication of application: 02.07.1999

(51)Int.Cl.

H01L 21/027 G01B 17/00

G03F 7/20

(21)Application number: 09-341445

(71)Applicant: NIKON CORP

(22)Date of filing:

11.12.1997

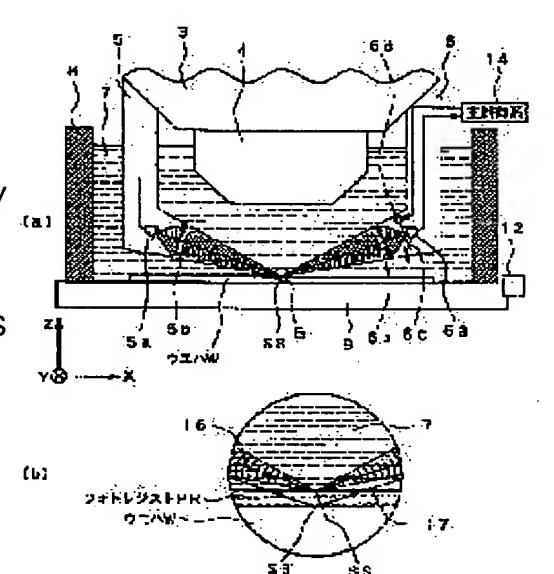
(72)Inventor: SHIRAISHI NAOMASA

#### (54) PROJECTION ALIGNER

#### (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To detect with high precision a position in an optical axis direction of a projection optical system on a surface of a substrate, even when wavelengths of aligned lights are substantially reduced and moreover the alignment is carried out in a liquid.

SOLUTION: A liquid 7 is supplied to a sidewall 8 so as to satisfy a gap between a lens 4 of a projection optical system which is closest to a wafer W and the wafer W. Ultrasonic waves are emitted from an ultrasonic emission system 5, and the ultrasonic waves reflected by an ultrasonic focusing position SS are received by an ultrasonic reception system 6. Based on a detection signal from the ultrasonic reception system 6, a defocusing amount from a best focusing position in a focusing position SS of ultrasonic waves is acquired. Based on the acquired defocusing amount, a sample ore pedestal 9 is driven in a Z-direction to control a focusing position.



#### **LEGAL STATUS**

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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#### **CLAIMS**

#### [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The projection aligner characterized by to have field location detection equipment of the ultrasonic sensing method which detects the location of the direction of an optical axis of said projection optics of said front face by detecting the supersonic wave which sends out a supersonic wave to the immersion equipment which supplies a predetermined liquid to the front face of said substrate, and the front face of said substrate through said liquid in the projection aligner which imprints a mask pattern on a substrate through projection optics, and is reflected on said front face.

[Claim 2] It is the projection aligner according to claim 1 characterized by said field location detection equipment detecting the location of the direction of an optical axis of said projection optics of the front face of said sensitive material when sensitive material is applied to the front face of said substrate.

[Claim 3] Claim 1 characterized by supplying said liquid so that between the point of the optical element by the side of said substrate of said projection optics and the front faces of said substrate may be filled, or a projection aligner given in two.

[Claim 4] Said liquid is a projection aligner claims 1 and 2 characterized by being water or an organic solvent, or given in three.

[Claim 5] The projection aligner of claim 1-4 characterized by having the substrate stage which holds said substrate and positions this substrate on a flat surface perpendicular to the optical axis of said projection optics, and the height control stage which controls the location of the direction of an optical axis of said projection optics of said substrate based on the detection result of said field location detection equipment given in any 1 term.

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#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the projection aligner used for the lithography process for manufacturing a semiconductor device, a liquid crystal display component, or the thin film magnetic head. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In case a semiconductor device etc. is manufactured, projection aligners, such as a stepper mold imprinted to each shot field on the wafers (or glass plate etc.) with which the image of the pattern of the reticle as a photo mask was applied to the resist as a substrate through projection optics or step -, and - scanning method, are used.

[0003] The resolution of the projection optics with which the projection aligner is equipped becomes so high that the exposure wavelength to be used is short and the numerical aperture of projection optics is large. Therefore, exposure wavelength used with a projection aligner with detailed-izing of an integrated circuit is short-wavelength-ized every year, and the numerical aperture of projection optics has also been increasing. And although the exposure wavelength of the current mainstream is 248nm of KrF excimer laser, 193nm use of the ArF excimer laser of short wavelength is also considered further.

[0004] Moreover, in case it exposes, the depth of focus as well as resolution becomes important. Resolution R and the depth of focus delta are expressed with the following formulas, respectively.

R=k1 and lambda/NA (1)

Delta=k 2 and lambda/NA 2 (2)

Here, lambda is exposure wavelength and NA is the numerical aperture of projection optics, k1, and k2. It is a process multiplier. When obtaining the same resolution, the depth of focus with bigger using the exposure light of short wavelength can be obtained. however, the spectrum of the penetrable optical member (\*\* material) used for projection optics -- if a transparency property is taken into consideration, while being able to penetrate the exposure light of the wavelength of ArF excimer laser shorter than 193nm at present, there is almost no uniform \*\* material which can form a comparatively big lens.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] It is difficult like the above to use the exposure light of the wavelength of ArF excimer laser shorter than 193nm in the conventional projection aligner (projection optics). Then, it considers as the approach of shortening exposure wavelength substantially, and the immersion method is proposed. A wafer is dipped into a predetermined liquid, and this improves resolution using the wavelength of the exposure light in the inside of a liquid increasing 1/n time in air (n being usually 1.2 to about 1.6 at the refractive index of a liquid), and increases the depth of focus.

[0006] By the way, since the whole exposure range needs to enter within the limits of the depth of focus of projection optics at the time of exposure, the focus device (automatic focus device) is prepared in the projection aligner. Incidence of the light beam is carried out to the front face of the wafer which should generally be exposed by oblique incidence, the reflected light is received by the optical system of a confrontation, the focus condition on the front face of a wafer is detected, and this moves a wafer up and down, and drives in to a focus location.

[0007] The film (photoresist) is applied to the wafer front face exposed, and a pattern is imprinted by this photoresist. Then, it is desirable to make this photoresist front face in agreement with the focal location of projection optics, and it needs to detect \*\*\*\*\*\* on the front face of a photoresist. The space where a wafer is arranged is filled with the conventional projection aligner with gases, such as air or nitrogen. And the refractive index of air is 1, for example, and the refractive index of the photoresist applied to the wafer front face is about 1.7. Therefore, the reflection factor of the light in an air-photoresist interface is calculated as

follows than Fresnel's formulas.

Reflection factor =  $\{(1-1.7)/(1+1.7)\}\ 2x100 = 6.7 (\%) (3)$ 

an air-photoresist interface -- the flux of light for focus detection -- many reflect comparatively and the location on the front face of a photoresist can be detected.

[0008] However, the space where a wafer is arranged will be filled with a liquid at the case of the projection aligner which adopted the immersion method. For example, when a liquid is water, the refractive index is 1.3 and the reflection factor of the light in a water-photoresist interface is calculated as follows than Fresnel's formulas.

Reflection factor =  $\{(1.3-1.7)/(1.3+1.7)\}\ 2x100 = 1.8$  (%) (4)

In a water-photoresist interface, since the difference of the refractive index of space and a photoresist becomes remarkably small compared with an air-photoresist interface, the reflection factor of the flux of light for focus detection falls, and it becomes difficult to detect the location on the front face of a photoresist correctly.

[0009] This invention short-wavelength-izes wavelength of exposure light in view of this point, and it aims at offering the projection aligner which can imprint a more detailed pattern. Furthermore, even if it is the case where exposure is performed on the substrate with which sensitive material was applied in the liquid, it aims also at offering the projection aligner which can detect the location of the direction of an optical axis of the projection optics of the front face of the sensitive material with high precision.

[0010]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In the projection aligner with which the projection aligner of this invention imprints the pattern image of a mask (R) on a substrate (W) through projection optics (PL) The immersion equipment which supplies a predetermined liquid (7) to the front face of the substrate (W) (2 8), A supersonic wave is sent out to the front face of the substrate (W) through a liquid (7), and it has field location detection equipment (5 6) of the ultrasonic sensing method which detects the location of the direction of an optical axis of the projection optics (PL) of the front face by detecting the supersonic wave reflected on the front face.

[0011] According to the projection aligner of this this invention, since the pattern image of a mask (R) is exposed on the surface of a substrate (W) through a liquid (7),-izing of the wavelength of the exposure light in a substrate front face can be carried out [ short wavelength ] 1/n time (n is the refractive index of a liquid (7)) of the wavelength in air. Moreover, since the field location detection equipment (5 6) of an ultrasonic sensing method detects the location of the direction of an optical axis of the front face of a substrate (W) with high precision, with optical field location detection equipment, detection of a field location can detect the location with high precision in a difficult liquid (7).

[0012] Moreover, when sensitive material (PR) is applied on the surface of the substrate (W), as for field location detection equipment (5 6), it is desirable to detect the location of the direction of an optical axis of the projection optics (3 4) of the front face of the sensitive material (PR). In this case, the image surface of projection optics (3 4) can be doubled with the front face of that sensitive material (PR). Moreover, it is desirable to supply a liquid (7) so that between the points and the front faces of a substrate (W) of the optical element (4) by the side of the substrate (W) of projection optics (PL) may be filled. In this case,-izing of the wavelength of the exposure light in a substrate (W) front face can be carried out [ short wavelength ] 1/n time (n is the refractive index of a liquid (7)) of the wavelength of the exposure light in air. Furthermore, in order that the lens-barrel (3) of projection optics (PL) may not contact a liquid (7), there is an advantage of being hard coming to corrode a lens-barrel (3).

[0013] Moreover, the liquid (7) is water (refractive index 1.3) or organic solvents (for example, alcohol (ethanol (refractive index 1.36) etc.), cedar oil (refractive index 1.52), etc.). In this case, in using water as a liquid (7), there is an advantage that that acquisition is easy. Moreover, in using an organic solvent as a liquid (7), there is an advantage of being hard coming to corrode the lens-barrel (3) of projection optics (PL). Furthermore, when using cedar oil as a liquid (7), the refractive index is as large as about 1.5, and can short-wavelength-ize exposure light more.

[0014] Moreover, it is desirable to have the substrate stage (10) which holds a substrate (W) and positions this substrate (W) on a flat surface perpendicular to the optical axis of projection optics (PL), and the height control stage (9) which controls the location of the direction of an optical axis (3 4) of the projection optics of that substrate (W) based on the detection result of field location detection equipment (5 6). In this case, the front face of a substrate (W) can be doubled with high precision to the image surface of projection optics (3 4).

[0015]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, with reference to drawing 1 - drawing 3, it explains per example of the gestalt of operation of this invention. <u>Drawing 1</u> (a) shows the outline configuration of the projection aligner of this example, and the exposure light IL which consists of ultraviolet pulsed light with a wavelength of 193nm injected from the illumination-light study system 1 containing the ArF excimer laser as the exposure light source, an optical integrator, a field diaphragm, a condensing lens, etc. illuminates the pattern prepared in Reticle R in this drawing 1 (a). the pattern of Reticle R -- a both-sides (or wafer side one side) tele cent -- contraction projection is carried out to the exposure field on the wafer W with which Photoresist PR was applied through the rucksack projection optics PL for the predetermined projection scale factor beta (beta is 1/4, and 1 / 5 grades). In addition, as an exposure light IL, KrF excimer laser light (wavelength of 248nm), F2 excimer-laser light (wavelength of 157nm), i line (wavelength of 365nm) of a mercury lamp, etc. may be used. The Z-axis is taken in parallel with the optical axis AX of projection optics PL hereafter, a Y-axis is taken along a direction perpendicular to the space of drawing 1 (a) in a flat surface perpendicular to the Z-axis, and the X-axis is taken and explained along a direction parallel to space. [0016] Reticle R is held on a reticle stage RST, and the device which can be moved slightly to the direction of X, the direction of Y, and a hand of cut is included in the reticle stage RST. The two-dimensional location of a reticle stage RST and the angle of rotation are measured by real time with the laser interferometer (unillustrating). On the other hand, Wafer W is held on the sample base 9 through a wafer holder (unillustrating), and the sample base 9 is being fixed on Z stage 10 which controls the focal location (location of a Z direction) and tilt angle of Wafer W. On the sample base 9, the cylinder-like side attachment wall 8 is established, and gets down, and the interior is filled with the liquid 7. A liquid 7 is supplied in a side attachment wall 8 before exposure through nozzle 2a by the liquid supply recovery system 2 which consists of a pump etc., and are collected after exposure. In addition, in the projection aligner of this example, since water (refractive index 1.3) is used as a liquid 7 and the wavelength of light increases 1/1.3 time in air in underwater, wavelength of exposure light which consists of ArF excimer laser (wavelength of 193nm) is substantially short-wavelength-ized by about 148nm.

[0017] Moreover, the lens-barrel 3 of projection optics PL is metal, and it is using the contact part of projection optics PL and a liquid 7 only as the lens 4 nearest to Wafer W in this example in order to prevent corrosion with a liquid 7. Moreover, the focal location detection system (it is called "the AF sensors 5 and 6" below) which consists of an ultrasonic injection system 5 and an ultrasonic receiving system 6 is attached in the side face of the lens-barrel 3 of projection optics PL.

[0018] Drawing 1 (b) is an about eight side attachment wall [ of drawing 1 (a) ] enlarged drawing, and door 8a which can be opened and closed and which is used in the case of taking out from conveyance of a up to [ the sample base 9 of Wafer W ] or the sample base 9 is prepared in the side attachment wall 8 in this drawing 1 (b). Moreover, nozzle 2a of the liquid supply recovery system 2 has supply of a liquid, and composition which can be driven up and down in the case of recovery.

[0019] Return and Z stage 10 are fixed by <u>drawing 1</u> (a) on X-Y stage 11 which moves along XY flat surface parallel to the image surface of projection optics PL, and X-Y stage 11 is laid on the non-illustrated base. Z stage 10 controls the focal location (location of a Z direction) of Wafer W, and a tilt angle, and doubles the photoresist PR front face on Wafer W with the image surface of projection optics PL by the automatic focus method and the auto leveling method, and X-Y stage 11 performs alignment of the direction of X of Wafer W, and the direction of Y. The two-dimensional location of the sample base 9 (wafer W) and the angle of rotation are measured by real time with the laser interferometer 13 as a location of the migration mirror 12. Based on this measurement result, control information is sent to the wafer stage drive system 15 from the main control system 14, actuation of Z stage 10 and X-Y stage 11 is controlled, each shot field on Wafer W moves to a sequential exposure location at the time of exposure, and the exposure imprint of the pattern of Reticle R is carried out to each shot field.

[0020] Next, the AF sensors 5 and 6 of the projection aligner of this example are explained. <u>Drawing 2</u> (a) expands and shows near the lower part of the projection optics of this example, and ultrasonic generating component 5a and focusing-of-ultrasonic-waves component 5b are prepared in the ultrasonic injection system 5 in this <u>drawing 2</u> (a). It converges on the focusing location SS on the photoresist PR front face applied to Wafer W by focusing-of-ultrasonic-waves component 5b, it reflects in the focusing location SS, and incidence of the supersonic wave with a frequency of 50MHz - about 200MHz injected from ultrasonic generating component 5a which consists of a piezoelectric device etc. is carried out to the ultrasonic receiving system 6. Ultrasonic receiving component 6a, focusing-of-ultrasonic-waves component 6b, and noise insulation plate 6c that can vibrate are prepared in the ultrasonic receiving system 6, and the supersonic wave which carried out incidence to the ultrasonic receiving system 6 converges by focusing-of-

ultrasonic-waves component 6b, and carries out incidence to ultrasonic receiving component 6a through opening of noise insulation plate 6c. The detecting signal of ultrasonic receiving component 6a is supplied to the main control system 14. In addition, opening which passes a supersonic wave is prepared in the center section of noise insulation plate 6c, and the location where the main control system 14 carries out the horizontal shift (or vibration) of the noise insulation plate 6c by 6d of noise insulation plate drives, and the detecting signal of ultrasonic receiving component 6a becomes max is detected. Or the synchronous detection of the detecting signal of ultrasonic receiving component 6a may be carried out by the signal which synchronized with vibrating noise insulation plate 6c.

[0021] Drawing 2 (b) expands and shows near focusing location SS of the supersonic wave on a photoresist PR front face, and the photoresist PR for sensitization is applied on Wafer W in this drawing 2 (b). In order that AF sensor of an oblique incidence method detects the location SS on a photoresist PR front face by optical [conventional], the refractive index of the liquid 7 and Photoresist PR also as a way may be comparable, a reflection factor may become very low and light may go to the front face of Wafer W in accordance with a path 17, location SS' detected is not located on the front face of Photoresist PR, but is doubled with the image surface of projection optics PL in the front face of the substrate of Wafer W itself. Since it progresses in accordance with a path 16 and is reflected on the front face of Photoresist PR, the location SS on a photoresist PR front face is detected correctly, and the supersonic wave of the AF sensors 5 and 6 of this example can make a photoresist PR front face focus to the image surface with high precision. [0022] Moreover, the location of the Z direction of a photoresist PR front face is detected by optical [conventional] by the same principle as AF sensor of an oblique incidence method from the horizontal shift amount of the focusing location of the supersonic wave on ultrasonic receiving component 6a. That is, if the focusing location on ultrasonic receiving component 6a of drawing 2 (a) will shift up if Wafer W shifts down [in drawing 2 R > 2 (b)] (- Z direction), and Wafer W shifts above [in drawing 2 (b)], since the focusing location on ultrasonic receiving component 6a shifts caudad, it can calculate the variation of the focal location of the front face of Photoresist PR from this horizontal shift amount. Therefore, beforehand, the best focus location is defined with the test print etc., and should just double the core (or oscillating core) of opening of noise insulation plate 6c, and the core of the focusing location of a supersonic wave then. [0023] <u>Drawing 3</u> shows relation with the focal location Z of the focal signal D and a photoresist PR front face obtained by carrying out the synchronous detection of the detecting signal from the ultrasonic receiving system 6 as an example. Within the main control system 14, the focal signal D which changes in proportion [ almost ] to the focal location Z in the predetermined range is generated corresponding to the focusing location SS of the supersonic wave in a photoresist PR front face by detecting synchronously the detecting signal from ultrasonic receiving set 6a with the driving signal of noise insulation plate 6c. In this example, when the focusing location SS has agreed in the image surface (best focus location) of projection optics PL, the calibration is performed so that it may be set to 0, and as for the main control system 14, the focal signal D corresponding to the focusing location SS of a supersonic wave can calculate the amount of defocusing (the amount of gaps) from the focal signal D. When the focal location of Wafer W is up, Z stage 10 (wafer W) is moved caudad, and when there is a focal location caudad conversely, it will expose by moving Z stage 10 (wafer W) up.

[0024] In addition, although water (refractive index 1.3) was used as a liquid 7 in this example, organic solvents (for example, alcohol, cedar oil, etc.) can also be used as a liquid 7. In this case, there is an advantage of being hard coming to corrode the lens-barrel 3 of projection optics PL. Moreover, when using cedar oil (refractive index 1.5), the refractive index is as large as 1.5, and can short-wavelength-ize exposure light more substantially.

[0025] In addition, the noise insulation plate which has two or more openings in the ultrasonic injection system 5 about detection of a focal location is arranged. You may make it detect each focal location of the two or more on the front face of a photoresist. Or the noise insulation plate which arranges the noise insulation plate which has big opening in the ultrasonic injection system 5, and has two or more openings is arranged in the ultrasonic receiving system 6, and you may make it detect each focal location in two or more points similarly.

[0026] In addition, with the gestalt of the above-mentioned operation, although the focal location on the front face of a photoresist of a wafer was detected using the supersonic wave, the leveling sensor which detects the tilt angle on the front face of a photoresist using a supersonic wave may be used. What is necessary is to irradiate the supersonic wave which progresses almost in parallel on the surface of a wafer, and just to detect the sound-collecting location of the supersonic wave reflected by this leveling sensor. [0027] In addition, of course, configurations various in the range which this invention is not limited to the

gestalt of above-mentioned operation, and does not deviate from the summary of this invention can be taken.

#### [0028]

[Effect of the Invention] According to the projection aligner of this invention, since the pattern image of a mask is exposed on the surface of a substrate through a liquid,-izing of the wavelength of the exposure light in a substrate front face can be substantially made [ short wavelength ] twice [ inverse number ] the refractive index of the liquid of the wavelength in air. Moreover, since the field location detection equipment of an ultrasonic sensing method detects the location of the direction of an optical axis on the front face of a substrate, with optical field location detection equipment, detection of a field location can detect the location with high precision in a difficult liquid.

[0029] Moreover, when field location detection equipment detects the location of the direction of an optical axis of the projection optics of the front face of sensitive material, based on the detection information, the front face of the sensitive material can be doubled with high precision to the image surface of projection optics. Moreover, when a liquid is supplied so that between the points and the front faces of a substrate of the optical element by the side of the substrate of projection optics may be filled,-izing of the exposure light can be carried out [ short wavelength ] 1/n time in air (n is the refractive index of a liquid), and in order that the lens-barrel of projection optics may not contact a liquid, there is an advantage of being hard coming to corrode the lens-barrel of projection optics.

[0030] Moreover, when a liquid is water, there is an advantage that the acquisition is easy. When liquids are organic solvents (for example, alcohol, cedar oil, etc.), there is an advantage of being hard to corrode the lens-barrel of projection optics. Furthermore, when using cedar oil as a liquid, the refractive index is large compared with 1.5, water (refractive index 1.3), etc., and exposure light can be short-wavelength-ized more. [0031] Moreover, when it has the substrate stage which holds a substrate and positions this substrate on a flat surface perpendicular to the optical axis of projection optics, and the height control stage which controls the location of the direction of an optical axis of the projection optics of that substrate based on the detection result of field location detection equipment, the image surface of projection optics can be doubled with the exposure location on a substrate front face.

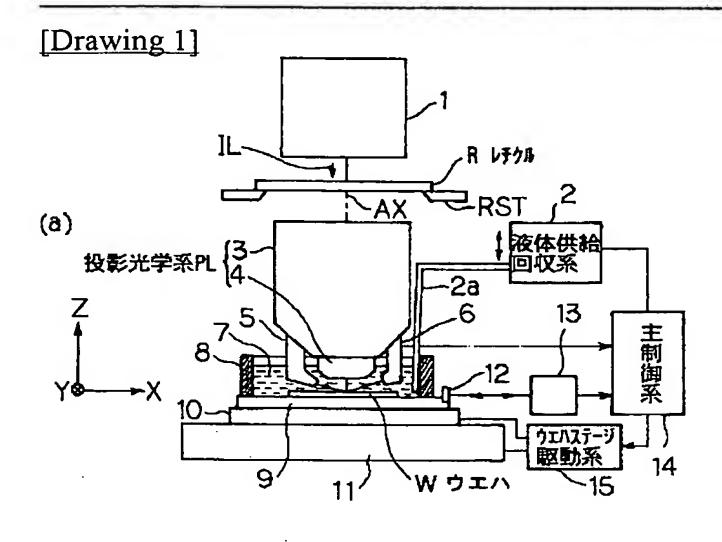
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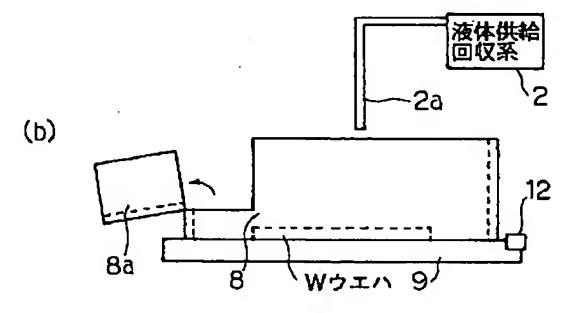
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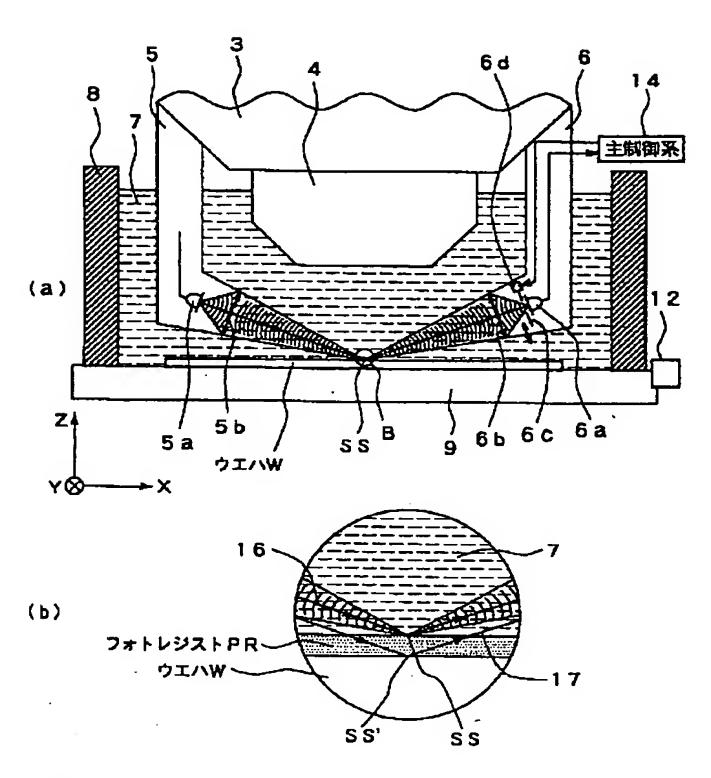
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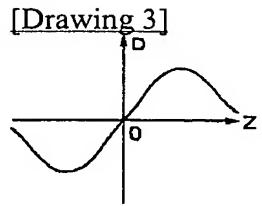
#### **DRAWINGS**





[Drawing 2]





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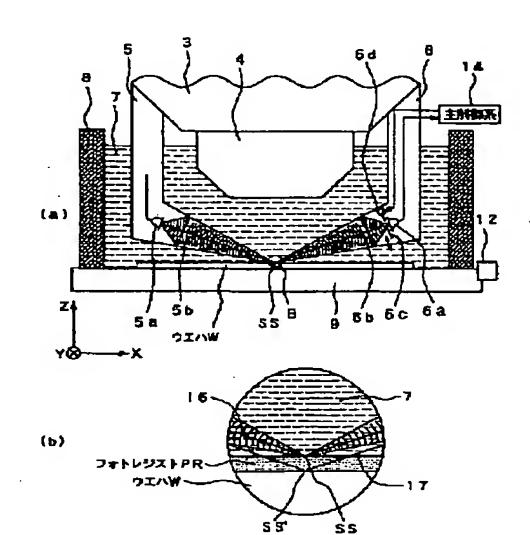
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SOLUTION: A liquid 7 is supplied to a sidewall 8 so as to satisfy a gap between a lens 4 of a projection optical system which is closest to a wafer W and the wafer W. Ultrasonic waves are emitted from an ultrasonic emission system 5, and the ultrasonic waves reflected by an ultrasonic focusing position SS are received by an ultrasonic reception system 6. Based on a detection signal from the ultrasonic reception system 6, a defocusing amount from a best focusing position in a focusing position SS of ultrasonic waves is acquired. Based on the acquired defocusing amount, a sample ore pedestal 9 is driven in a Z-direction to control a focusing position.

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## 特開平11-176727

(43)公開日 平成11年(1999)7月2日

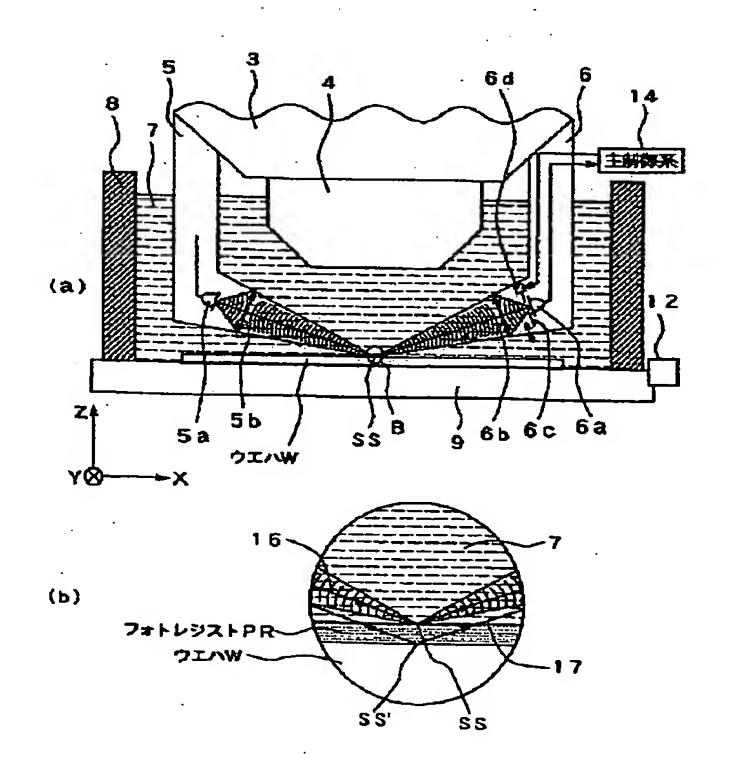
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#### (54)【発明の名称】投影露光装置

#### (57)【要約】

【課題】 露光光を実質的に短波長化し、また、露光が液体中で行われる場合であっても、基板表面の投影光学系の光軸方向の位置を高精度に検出する。

【解決手段】 ウエハWに最も近い投影光学系のレンズ 4 とウエハWとの間を満たすように健壁 8 内に液体 7 を供給する。超音波射出系 5 から超音波を射出し、超音波 を超音波 で 6 により受信する。超音波 受信系 6 からの検出信号に基づいて、超音波の集束位置 S S における ペストフォーカス 位置からのデフォーカス 位置 からのデフォーカス 位置 からのデフォーカス 位置 の 制御を行う。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 マスクバターンを投影光学系を介して基 板上に転写する投影露光装置において、

前記基板の表面に所定の液体を供給する液浸装置と、 前記基板の表面に前記液体を介して超音波を送出し、前 記表面で反射される超音波を検出することによって前記 表面の前配投影光学系の光軸方向の位置を検出する超音 波方式の面位置検出装置と、

を備えたことを特徴とする投影露光装置。

【菌求項2】 前記基板の表面に感光材料が塗布されて 10 いる際に、

前記面位置検出装置は、前記感光材料の表面の前記投影 光学系の光軸方向の位置を検出することを特徴とする節 求項1記載の投影露光装置。

【請求項3】 前記投影光学系の前記基板側の光学素子 の先端部と前記基板の表面との間を満たすように前記液 体が供給されることを特徴とする請求項1、又は2記載 の投影露光装置。

前配液体は、水、又は有機溶媒であるこ 【蘭求項4】 とを特徴とする請求項1、2、又は3配載の投影露光装 置。

【請求項5】 前記基板を保持して該基板を前記投影光 学系の光軸に垂直な平面上で位置決めする基板ステージ と、

前記面位置検出装置の検出結果に基づいて前配基板の前 記投影光学系の光軸方向の位置を制御する高さ制御ステ

$$R = k_1 \cdot \lambda / N A$$

$$\delta = k_2 \cdot \lambda / N A^2$$

ここで、入は露光波長、NAは投影光学系の開口数、k ı, kıはプロセス係数である。同じ解像度を得る場合 には短い波長の露光光を用いた方が大きな焦点深度を得 ることができる。しかしながら、投影光学系に使用され る透過性の光学部材(硝材)の分光透過特性を考慮する と、現時点ではArFエキシマレーザの193nmより 短い波長の露光光を透過できると共に、比較的大きなレ ンズを形成できる均一な硝材はほとんどない。

[0005]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】上記の如く従来の投影 露光装置(投影光学系)では、ArFエキシマレーザの である。そこで、実質的に露光波長を短くする方法とし て、液浸法が提案されている。これは、ウエハを所定の 液体中に浸し、液体中での露光光の波長が、空気中の1 /n倍(nは液体の屈折率で通常1.2~1.6程度) になることを利用して解像度を向上し、焦点深度を増大 するというものである。

【0006】ところで、露光時には、露光範囲全体が投

= 6.7(%)

(3)

ージと、を備えたことを特徴とする簡求項1~4の何れ か一項配載の投影露光装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、例えば、半導体素 子、液晶表示素子、又は薄膜磁気ヘッド等を製造するた めのリソグラフィ工程に用いられる投影露光装置に関す る.

[00002]

【従来の技術】半導体素子等を製造する際に、フォトマ スクとしてのレチクルのパターンの像を投影光学系を介 して、基板としてのレジストが塗布されたウエハ (又は ガラスプレート等)上の各ショット領域に転写するステ ッパー型、又はステップ・アンド・スキャン方式等の投 影露光装置が使用されている。

【0003】投影露光装置に備えられている投影光学系 の解像度は、使用する露光波長が短く、投影光学系の開 口数が大きいほど高くなる。そのため、集積回路の微細 化に伴い投影露光装置で使用される露光波長は年々短波 20 長化しており、投影光学系の開口数も増大してきてい る。そして、現在主流の露光波長は、KFFエキシマレ ーザの248nmであるが、更に短波長のArFエキシ マレーザの193nmの使用も検討されている。

【0004】また、露光を行う際には、解像度と同様に 焦点深度も重要となる。解像度 R、 及び焦点深度 δ はそ れぞれ以下の式で表される。

(1)

·(2)

影光学系の焦点深度の範囲内に入る必要があるため、投 30 影露光装置には、合焦機構(オートフォーカス機構)が 設けられている. これは、一般に露光すべきウエハの表 面に斜入射で光ビームを入射し、その反射光を対面の光 学系で受光してウエハ表面の合焦状態を検出し、ウェハ を上下に移動して合焦位置へ追い込むというものであ る.

【0007】露光されるウエハ表面には感光膜(フォト レジスト) が塗布されており、このフォトレジストにパ ターンが転写される。そこで、このフォトレジスト表面 を投影光学系の焦点位置に一致させることが望ましく、 193 nmより短い波長の露光光を使用することは困難 40 フォトレジスト表面の位置をを検出する必要がある。従 来の投影露光装置では、ウエハが配置される空間は空 気、又は空素等の気体で満たされている。そして、例え ば空気の屈折率は1であり、ウエハ表面に釜布されたフ オトレジストの屈折率は、約1.7である。従って、空 気ーフォトレジスト界面における光の反射率は、フレネ ルの式より以下のように計算される。

空気-フォトレジスト界面では、合焦検出用の光束の比 50 較的多くが反射し、フォトレジスト表面の位置を検出す

ることができる。

【0008】しかし、液浸法を採用した投影露光装置の 場合には、ウエハが配置される空間は液体で満たされる

反射率= [(1.3-1.7)/(1.3+1.7)] \*×100

= 1.8 (%)

水ーフォトレジスト界面では、空気-フォトレジスト界 面に比べ空間とフォトレジストとの屈折率の差が著しく 小さくなるため、合焦検出用の光束の反射率が低下し、 フォトレジスト表面の位置を正確に検出することが困難 となる。

【0009】本発明は斯かる点に鑑み、露光光の波長を 短波長化し、より微細なパターンを転写できる投影露光 装置を提供することを目的とする。さらに、液体中で感 光材料が塗布された基板上に露光が行われる場合であっ ても、その感光材料の表面の投影光学系の光軸方向の位 置を高精度に検出することができる投影露光装置を提供 することをも目的とする。

[0010]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の投影露光装置 は、マスク(R) のパターン像を投影光学系 (PL) を 介して基板(W)上に転写する投影器光装置において、 その基板(W)の表面に所定の液体(7)を供給する液 浸装貸(2,8)と、その基板(W)の表面に液体 (7)を介して超音波を送出し、その表面で反射される 超音波を検出することによってその表面のその投影光学 系(PL)の光軸方向の位置を検出する超音波方式の面 位置検出装置(5,6)とを備えたものである。

【0011】斯かる本発明の投影露光装置によれば、マ スク(R)のパターン像を液体(7)を介して基板 の波長を空気中における波長の1/n倍(nは液体 (7)の屈折率)に短波長化できる。また、超音波方式 の面位置検出装置(5,6)により基板(W)の表面の 光軸方向の位置を高精度に検出するため、光学式の面位 置検出装置では面位置の検出が困難な液体 (7) 中にお いても、その位置を高精度に検出することができる。

【0012】また、基板 (W) の表面に感光材料 (P R) が塗布されている際に、面位置検出装置 (5, 6) は、その感光材料 (PR) の表面の投影光学系 (3, 4) の光軸方向の位置を検出することが望ましい。この 場合、投影光学系 (3, 4) の像面をその感光材料 (P R)の表面に合わせ込むことができる。また、投影光学 系(PL)の基板(W)側の光学素子(4)の先端部と その基板(W)の表面との間を満たすように液体(7) が供給されることが望ましい。この場合、基板(W)表 面における露光光の波長を、空気中における露光光の波 長の1/n倍(nは液体(7)の屈折率)に短波長化で きる。さらに、投影光学系 (PL) の鏡筒 (3) が液体

(7) に接触しないため、鏡筒 (3) が腐食しにくくな

るという利点がある。

ことになる。例えば液体が水である場合、その屈折率は 1. 3であり、水ーフォトレジスト界面における光の反 射率は、フレネルの式より以下のように計算される。

(4)

【0013】また、その液体(7)は、水(屈折率1. 3)、又は有機溶媒(例えばアルコール(エタノール (屈折率1.36)等)、セダー油(屈折率1.52) 等)である。この場合に液体(7)として水を用いる場 10 合には、その入手が容易であるという利点がある。ま た、液体(7)として有機溶媒を用いる場合には、投影. 光学系(PL)の鏡筒(3)が腐食しにくくなるという 利点がある。さらに、液体 (7) としてセダー油を用い る場合には、その屈折率が約1.5と大きく、露光光を より短波長化することができる。

【0014】また、基板(W)を保持してこの基板 (W)を投影光学系 (PL) の光軸に垂直な平面上で位 置決めする基板ステージ(10)と、面位置検出装置 (5,6)の検出結果に基づいてその基板 (W)の投影 20 光学系の光軸方向(3,4)の位置を制御する高さ制御 ステージ(9)とを備えることが望ましい。この場合、 投影光学系(3,4)の像面に対して基板(W)の表面 を高精度に合わせ込むことができる。

[0015]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施の形態の一例・ につき図1~図3を参照して説明する。図1 (a) は本 例の投影露光装置の概略構成を示し、この図1 (a) に おいて、露光光源としてのArFエキシマレーザ光源、 オプティカル・インテグレータ、視野校り、コンデンサ (W)の表面に露光するため、基板表面における露光光 30 レンズ等を含む照明光学系1から射出された波長193 nmの紫外パルス光よりなる露光光ILは、レチクルR に設けられたパターンを照明する。レチクルRのパター ンは、両側(又はウエハ側に片側)テレセントリックな 投影光学系PLを介して所定の投影倍率β(βは例えば 1/4.1/5等) でフォトレジストPRが塗布された ウエハW上の露光領域に縮小投影される。なお、露光光 ILとしては、KrFエキシマレーザ光(波長248n m)、F1エキシマレーザ光(波長157nm)や水銀 ランプのi線(波長365nm)等を使用してもよい。 以下、投影光学系PLの光軸AXに平行に2軸を取り、 Z軸に垂直な平面内で図1 (a)の紙面に垂直な方向に 沿ってY軸を取り、紙面に平行な方向に沿ってX軸を取 って説明する。

> 【0016】レチクルRはレチクルステージRST上に 保持され、レチクルステージRSTにはX方向、Y方 向、回転方向に微動できる機構が組み込まれている。レ チクルステージRSTの2次元的な位置、及び回転角は レーザ干渉計(不図示)によってリアルタイムに計測さ れている.一方、ウエハWはウエハホルダ(不図示)を 50 介して試料台9上に保持され、試料台9はウエハwのフ ・

オーカス位置(2方向の位置)及び傾斜角を制御する2ステージ10上に固定されている。試料台9上には円筒状の側壁8が設けられおり、その内部は液体7で満たされている。液体7は、ボンプ等からなる液体供給回収を発してより、ノズル2aを介して露光前に側壁8内に供給され、露光後に回収される。なお、本例の投影露光を置では液体7として水(屈折率1.3)を使用してなり、光の液長は水中において空気中の1/1.3倍になるため、ArFエキシマレーザ(液長193nm)になる。露光光の液長は実質的に約148nmに短波長化される。

【0017】また、投影光学系PLの鏡筒3は金属製であり、液体7による腐食を防止するため、本例では、投影光学系PLと液体7との接触部分は、ウエハWに最も近いレンズ4のみとしている。また、投影光学系PLの鏡筒3の側面には、超音波射出系5と超音波受信系6とよりなる焦点位置検出系(以下「AFセンサ5、6」と呼ぶ)が取り付けられている。

【0018】図1(b)は図1(a)の側壁8近傍の拡大図であり、この図1(b)において、側壁8にはウエハWの試料台9上への搬送、又は試料台9からの搬出の際に使用する開閉自在の扉8 aが設けられている。また、液体供給回収系2のノズル2 aは、液体の供給、及び回収の際に上下に駆動することができる構成となっている。

【0019】図1 (a) に戻り、Zステージ10は投影 光学系PLの像面と平行なXY平面に沿って移動するX Yステージ11上に固定され、XYステージ11は不図 示のベース上に載置されている。 2ステージ10は、ウ エハWのフォーカス位置(2方向の位置)、及び傾斜角 を制御してウエハW上のフォトレジストPR表面をオー トフォーカス方式、及びオートレベリング方式で投影光 学系PLの像面に合わせ込み、XYステージ11はウエ ハWのX方向、及びY方向の位置合わせを行う。試料台 9 (ウエハW) の2次元的な位置、及び回転角は、移動 競12の位置としてレーザ干渉計13によってリアルタ イムに計測されている。この計測結果に基づいて主制御 系14からウエハステージ駆動系15に制御情報が送ら れ、Zステージ10、XYステージ11の動作が制御さ れ、露光時にはウエハW上の各ショット領域が順次露光 位置に移動し、レチクルRのパターンが各ショット領域 へ露光転写される。

【0020】次に、本例の投影露光装置のAFセンサ5.6について説明する。図2(a)は、本例の投影光学系の下部近傍を拡大して示し、この図2(a)において、超音波射出系5には超音波発生素子5a、及び超音波集束素子5bが設けられている。圧重素子等からなる超音波発生素子5aから射出された周波数50MHz~200MHz程度の超音波は、超音波集束素子5bに集りウエハWに塗布されたフォトレジストPR表面上の集

【0023】図3は、一例として超音波受信系6からの検出信号を同期検波して得られるフォーカス信号Dと示す・主制御系14内で、超音波受信装置6aからのと示す・主制御系14内で、超音波受信装置6aからとと間信号を、遮音板6cの駆動信号で同期整流の集束位置Sに対応して、フォーカス位置2に所定範囲でほぼよのして変化するフォーカス信号Dが生成される。本例で50は、超音波の集束位置SSに対応するフォーカス信号Dが生成される。本例で50は、超音波の集束位置SSに対応するフォーカス信号Dが生成される。本例で50は、超音波の集束位置SSに対応するフォーカス信号Dが生成される。本例で50は、超音波の集束位置SSに対応するフォーカス信号Dが生成される。本例で50は、超音波の集束位置SSに対応するフォーカス信号Dが生成される。本例で50は、超音波の集束位置SSに対応するフォーカス信号Dが生成される。本例で50は、超音波の集束位置SSに対応するフォーカス信号Dが生成される。

は、集束位置SSが投影光学系PLの像面(ベストフォ ーカス位置)に合致しているときに 0 になるようにキャ リブレーションが行われており、主制御系14は、フォ ーカス信号Dよりデフォーカス量(ずれ量)を求めるこ とができる。ウエハWのフォーカス位置が上方にある場 合には、 Z ステージ10 (ウエハW) を下方に移動し、 逆にフォーカス位置が下方にある場合には、てステージ 10 (ウェハW) を上方に移動して健光を行うことにな る。

【0024】なお、本例では液体7として水(屈折率 1.3)を使用したが、液体7として有機溶媒(例えば アルコール、セダー油等)を用いることもできる。この 場合には、投影光学系PLの鏡筒3が腐食しにくくなる という利点がある。また、セダー油(屈折率1.5)を 用いる場合には、その屈折率が1.5と大きく、露光光 を実質的により短波長化することができる。

【0025】なお、フォーカス位置の検出については、 超音波射出系 5 に複数の開口を有する遮音板を配置し、 フォトレジスト表面の複数点での各フォーカス位置を検 出するようにしてもよく、あるいは、大きな開口を有す る遮音板を超音波射出系5内に配置し、且つ複数の開口 を有する遮音板を超音波受信系6内に配置して、同様に 複数点での各フォーカス位置を検出するようにしてもよ **b**3 ...

【0026】なお、上記の実施の形態では、超音波を用 いてウエハのフォトレジスト表面のフォーカス位置を検 出したが、超音波を用いてフォトレジスト表面の傾斜角 を検出するレベリングセンサを用いてもよい。このレベ リングセンサでは、ウエハの表面にほぼ平行に進む超音 波を照射して、反射される超音波の集音位置を検出すれ 30 【符号の説明】 ばよい。

【0027】なお、本発明は上述の実施の形態に限定さ れず、本発明の要旨を逸脱しない範囲で種々の構成を取 り得ることは勿論である。

[0028]

【発明の効果】本発明の投影露光装置によれば、マスク のパターン像を液体を介して基板の表面に露光するた め、基板表面における露光光の波長を実質的に空気中に おける波長の液体の屈折率の逆数倍に短波長化できる。 また、超音波方式の面位置検出装置により基板表面の光 40 7 液体 軸方向の位置を検出するため、光学式の面位置検出装置 では面位置の検出が困難な液体中においても、その位置 を髙精度に検出することができる。

【0029】また、面位置検出装置が、感光材料の表面 の投影光学系の光軸方向の位置を検出する場合には、そ の検出情報に基づいて投影光学系の像面に対してその感

光材料の表面を高精度に合わせ込むことができる。ま た、投影光学系の基板側の光学素子の先端部とその基板 の表面との間を満たすように液体が供給される場合に は、露光光を空気中の1/n倍(nは液体の屈折率)に 短波長化できる、また、投影光学系の鏡筒が液体に接触 しないため、投影光学系の鏡筒が腐食しにくくなるとい う利点がある。

【0030】また、液体が、水である場合には、その入 手が容易であるという利点がある。液体が、有機溶媒 (例えばアルコール、セダー油等) である場合には、投 影光学系の鏡筒が腐食しにくいという利点がある。さら に、液体としてセダー油を用いる場合には、その屈折率 が1.5と水(屈折率1.3)等に比べて大きく、露光 光をより短波長化することができる。

【0031】また、基板を保持してこの基板を投影光学 系の光軸に垂直な平面上で位置決めする基板ステージ と、面位置検出装置の検出結果に基づいてその基板の投 影光学系の光軸方向の位置を制御する高さ制御ステージ とを備える場合には、投影光学系の像面を基板表面上の **露光位置に合わせ込むことができる。** 

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】 (a) は本発明の実施の形態の一例の投影露光 装置を示す概略構成図、(b)は図1 (a)の個壁8近 傍を示す拡大図である。

【図2】(a)は図1(a)の投影露光装置下部の構成 を示す部分拡大図、(b)は図2(a)のB部の拡大図 である。

【図3】ウエハW上のフォトレジスト表面のフォーカス 位置てとフォーカス信号Dとの関係を示す図である。

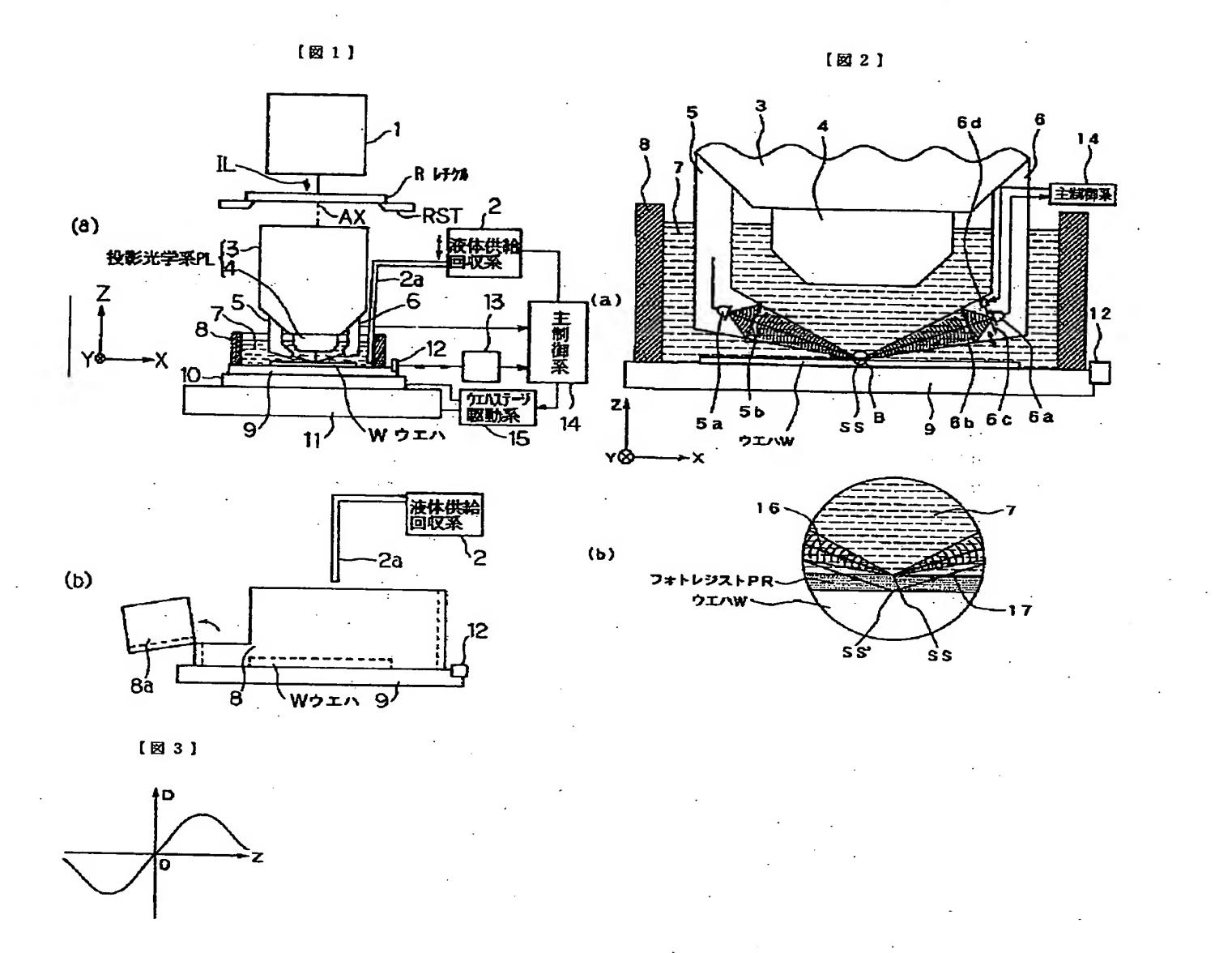
W ウエハ

R レチクル

PL 投影光学系

- 1 照明光学系
- 2 液体供給回収系
- 3 競筒
- 4 レンズ
- 5 超音波射出系
- 超音波受信系
- - 8 倒壁
  - 9 試料台
  - 10 2ステージ
  - 14 主制御系
  - 15 ウエハステージ駆動系

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